

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	LLB Law Students may also graduate with: - LLB Law and Commercial Law* - LLB Law and Human Rights* - LLB Law and Legal Practice* - LLB Law and Legal Practice (CILEX) - LLB Law with Environmental Studies (Level 6)
Name and title of any interim exit qualification(s)	Cert HE (LLB) Dip HE (LLB)
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year?	Yes
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home School/other teaching departments	Birkbeck Law School
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years), Part-time (4 years) Full-Time with Foundation Year (4 years) October (Daytime or Evening teaching)
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Bar Standards Board Solicitors Regulation Authority CILEX Regulator
<u>QAA subject benchmark group(s)</u> <u>Higher Education Credit Framework for</u> <u>England</u>	Law
UCAS code and URL	M100, M101
Birkbeck Course Code	UBLLAWLL_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBLLAWL_C (full-time, 3 years) UUBFLAWL_C (full-time with FY, 4 years)
HECoS Code	100485
Start date of programme	Prior to 2003/4
Date of programme approval	Prior to 2003/4
Date of last programme amendment approval	January 2026
Valid for academic entry year	2026-27
Date of last revision to document	28/01/26

*These pathways are available both as direct entry pathways or pathways from LLB Law..

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Requirement for those who have recently studied qualifications with a UCAS tariff equivalence: 120 UCAS tariff points/ A-levels (BBB).

- For mature students with experience: no specific A-level requirement. Admission is at the discretion of the admissions tutor.
- Certificate of Higher Education in Legal Methods (from Birkbeck): successful completion with a minimum mark of 50% enables entry to the LLB with optional credit for a first-year module.
- Applicants may be required to complete a written exercise in reasoning and analysis if they do not meet UCAS tariff.
- 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.

Foundation Year:

Foundation Year formal entry requirement to the LLB with Foundation year is at a level not higher than the standard Clearing entry of CCC equivalent and no lower than DD/DDE or equivalent. Non-traditional qualifications and/or paid/voluntary work or other relevant experience may be taken into account, as appropriate. All applicants will, in addition, be subject to test and interview.

48 UCAS points GCSE English and maths grade C or equivalent

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides a [tariff calculator](#) for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

The LLB Law provides a comprehensive grounding in the seven foundational subjects of English law and extend students' legal knowledge and understanding in specialist areas through a broad range of research led teaching on optional modules. Students may also opt to graduate in one of our 3 pathways depending on the options they choose: LLB (Hons) in Law and Human Rights; LLB (Hons) in Law and Commercial Law; (LLB Hons) in Law and Legal Practice.

Professional Qualification

In addition to its CILEX accreditation (LLB Law with Legal Practice (CILEX)), this programme satisfies the first stage (academic) of professional qualification required by the Bar Standards Board (barstandardsboard.org.uk)

The degree also provides a strong foundation in the functional legal knowledge assessed in the Solicitor Qualifying Exam (SQE) Part One, preparing graduates for further professional training. Students who successfully complete the LLB Law are guaranteed progression onto the *Birkbeck Law School LLM with SQE1 or LLM with SQE1&2.*

More specifically, the School of Law at Birkbeck aims to:

- Provide a comprehensive grounding in foundational subjects of English law and extend students' legal knowledge and understanding in specialist areas.
- Provide students with an understanding of major legal concepts, values, principles and rules of the legal system, legislation and case law.
- Provide students with extensive careers support and opportunities
- Provide a broad appreciation of the range of possible approaches to legal scholarship.
- Promote a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of law 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 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.

Distinctive Features:

The most distinctive feature of the LLB programme is that 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. Specific features include:

- Successful completion of the LLB Law and Practice (CILEX) Pathway fulfils the academic requirements for those seeking admission through CILEx Regulation. Graduates will therefore be eligible to apply for assessment of their experience and competence, leading to qualification as a Chartered Legal Executive with practice rights in their chosen specialist area.
- Classes are standardly taught between 6pm and 9pm, Monday –Thursday
- Access to a full range of 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

Foundation Year Aims

- Provide directed and supervised learning opportunities that facilitate the development of study skills and enable students to prepare for undergraduate level study of law;
- Develop knowledge and understanding of defined areas of the legal system and introduce an awareness of current debates in those areas;
- Develop interpersonal and communication skills to clarify tasks, apply knowledge, and communicate outcomes in narrowly defined topics of legal study.

Distinctive features of Foundation Year

- The programme is ideal for recent school/college leavers who do not have either the requisite level 3 qualifications, or relevant work-related experience to make them eligible for entry to the standard LLB three year programme.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module title	Credits	Status*	Likely teaching term
Full Time programme – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	LALA157S4	Legal Systems and Methods	30	Compulsory	T1-2
4	LADD033S4	Constitutional and Administrative Law	30	Compulsory	T1-2
4	LADD034S4	Contract Law	30	Compulsory	T1-2
4	LALW056S4	Criminal Law	30	Compulsory	T2-3
Year 2					
5	LADD037S5	Tort Law	30	Compulsory	T1-2
5	LALW095H5	Foundations of Property	15	Compulsory	T1
5	LALW096H5	Land Law	15	Compulsory	T2
5	LALW066H5	Law of the European Union	15	Compulsory	T3
5	SC08005H5	Legal Argument	15	Compulsory	T1
5	Various	30 credits of level 5 option modules	30	Options	T1/T2/T3
Year 3					
6	LALW097H6	Trusts Law	15	Compulsory	T1
6	LADD039H6	Jurisprudence and Legal Theory	15	Compulsory	T2
6	SC08006H6	Legal Research and Writing	15	Compulsory	T1-3
6	Various	75 credits of level 6 option modules	75	Options	T1/T2/T3
Part Time programme – 4 years					
Year 1					
4	LALA157S4	Legal Systems and Methods	30	Compulsory	T1-2
4	LADD033S4	Constitutional and Administrative Law	30	Compulsory	T1-2
4	LADD034S4	Contract Law	30	Compulsory	T1-2
Year 2					
4	LALW056S4	Criminal Law	30	Compulsory	T2-3
5	LADD037S5	Tort Law	30	Compulsory	T1-2
5	Various	30 credits of level 5 option modules	30	Option	T1/T2
Year 3					
5	LALW095H5	Foundations of Property	15	Compulsory	T1
5	LALW096H5	Land Law	15	Compulsory	T2
5	LALW066H5	Law of the European Union	15	Compulsory	T3
5	SC08005H5	Legal Argument	15	Compulsory	T1
6	Various	30 credits of level 6 option modules	30	Option	T1/T2
Year 4					
6	LALW097H6	Trusts Law	15	Compulsory	T1
6	LADD039H6	Jurisprudence and Legal Theory	15	Compulsory	T2
6	SC08006H6	Legal Research and Writing	15	Compulsory	T1-3
6	Various	30 credits of level 6 option modules	45	Option	T1/T2/T3

Full-time with Foundation Year – 4 years					
Foundation Year (Year 0)					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	T1
3	LALW040S3	Legal Systems	30	Core	T1
3	LALW041S3	Reading the Law	30	Core	T2
3	LALW042S3	Law of the Trial	30	Core	T2

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

List of Optional Modules

Students can take up to 30 credits of any optional modules offered from other programmes unless indicated as part of a pathway. Further study of modules offered outside of the law school will require agreement from the Programme Director

Offered at Level 5

Equality and Diversity (LADD002H5)

Clinical Case Work (LALW122H5)(by application only)

Introduction to Commercial Law (LALW082H5)

Offered at Levels 5 and 6

Consumer Law (LALA101H5) (LALW054H6)

Environmental Law (LALW025H5) (LALW035H6)

Housing, Justice and the Law (LALW012H6) (LALW011H5)

Human Rights (LALW007S5) (LALA003S6)

Labour Law (LALW034H5) (LALW024H6)

Offered at Level 6

Child Law (LADD006H6)

Adult Relations (LADD062H6)

Banking and Monetary Law (LALW016H6)

Competition Law (LALW090H6)

Cyberspace Law (LALW001H6)

Evidence (LALW076H6)

Immigration Law I Fundamentals of UK Law (LALA144H6)

International Law 1 (Foundations) (Level 6) (SC08001H6)

Intellectual Property Law I (LALW093H6)

Intellectual Property Law II (LALW094H6)

Law, History and Political Violence (LALA135H6)

Mooting & Trials Skills (LALW055H6)

Principles of Medical Law & Ethics (LALW050H6)

Transformative Lawyering (LALW083H6)

Undergraduate Dissertation (LADD049S6)

Professional Legal Conduct, Technology and Accounts (SC08010H6)

Legal Procedure (Dispute Resolution, Conveyancing & Criminal (SC08011S6)

Pathway Degree Awards

Students who gain a required number of options from a pathway may choose to graduate with the relevant pathway title.

LLB (Hons) Law and Legal Practice

The LLB (Hons) in Law and Legal Practice offers students an opportunity to graduate with a skills specific to legal practice; knowledge of specialised areas of legal practice; and broadly academic discourse on the professions.

Students on the LLB and LLB + FY would need to complete 60 credits in designated Legal Practice optional modules.

LLB (Hons) Law and Legal Practice (CILEX)

Students may also choose to graduate with an *LLB Law with Practice (CILEX)*. This professionally focused degree that builds on the seven foundational subjects of English law while developing advanced legal knowledge, technical skills, and applied understanding in specialist areas. A key feature of the programme is its alignment with CILEX qualification requirements and support progression toward Chartered Legal Executive status.

Successful completion of this CILEX-approved LLB fulfils the academic requirements for those seeking admission through CILEX Regulation. Graduates will therefore be eligible to apply for assessment of their experience and competence, leading to qualification as a Chartered Legal Executive with practice rights in their chosen specialist area.

Students must complete both **Professional Legal Conduct, Technology and Accounts** (15 credits) and **Legal Procedure (Dispute Resolution, Conveyancing & Criminal)** (30 credits) as well as a further 15 credits option from the legal practice pathway.

LLB (Hons) Law and Human Rights

Students on the LLB and LLB + FY would need to complete the Human Rights (30 Credits, Level 5 or 6) and 30 additional credits in optional modules classified as Human Rights modules.

LLB (Hons) Law and Commercial Law

The LLB (Hons) in Law and Commercial Law offers students an opportunity to graduate with a qualification in an area of legal study that is popular amongst a significant number of our graduates. The pathway prepares students with a rounded set of core competencies, including the basics of company law, commercial law and broader modules in commercial law.

Students on the LLB and LLB + FY would need to complete 60 credits in designated Commercial Law optional modules.

LLB (Hons) and Environmental Studies

The LLB (Hons) in Law and Legal Practice offers students an opportunity to graduate with a minor in Environmental Studies. Students will be required to take Environmental Law (LALW025H5)(LALW035H6) and at least a further 75 credits from modules offered on the Environmental Studies Minor Pathway offer.

Cross College Modules offered on the pathway:

Level 5

- The Ethics of Life and Death: Humans, Animals and the Environment
- Eco-Poetics and Environmental Writing
- The Arts of Adaptation: Creative Climates
- Future Food Systems and Sustainability
- Global Environmental Histories
- Environmental Law (15 credits)
- Environmental Processes
- Managing Environments
- Sustainability and Stakeholder Marketing (15 credits)

Level 6

- Climate and Society: Past, Present and Future
- Environmental Law (15 credits)*
- Race, Environment and International Development
- Global Nature Conservation
- Geological Hazards (15 credits)
- Ethics and Sustainability in Food and Beverages (15 credits)
- Performing Environments

*Note: Environmental Law can only be taken at level 5 or level 6.

Indicative List of modules associated with other pathways. List may be subject to change when new modules are made available or when modules are replaced or removed from the syllabus.:

Legal Practice	Human Rights	Commercial Law
Clinical Case Work	Contemporary Issues in Medical Law and Ethics	Banking and Monetary Law
Adult Relations	Cyberspace Law	Competition Law
Criminal Evidence	Equality and Diversity	Consumer Law
Legal Argument and Language in Law	Human Rights	Foundations in Company Law
Mooting and Trial Skills	Immigration Law	Intellectual Property Law
Transformative Lawyering	Principles of Medical Law and Ethics	Introduction to Commercial Law
Wills, Probate and Inheritance	Housing Justice and the Law	Labour Law
Child Law	Law, History and Political Violence	Media Law
Professional Legal Conduct, Technology and Accounts	Media Law	
Legal Procedure (Dispute Resolution, Conveyancing & Criminal)	Child Law	
	Imprisonment and Justice	

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.

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; seminars; virtual learning; private tutorials; web based independent skills tutorials; weekend and pre-sessional skills workshops; public lectures and research seminars.

How we will assess you

Assessment is used to guide and promote your learning rather than simply to test it. The course uses a variety of different assessments across the modules you study, to help you develop the wide range of essential legal skills and abilities for the programme. Throughout your studies you will be assessed through a range of activities including:

- problem questions
- short critical essays
- seen and unseen 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

You will find Law graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- **Solicitor (after further vocational training and qualification)** – advising clients, drafting documents, handling transactions and disputes.
- **Barrister (with bar training and pupillage)** – courtroom advocacy and specialist legal opinion work.
- **Chartered Legal Executive** – fee-earning legal work with practice rights in defined areas, via the CILEX route.
- **Paralegal** – legal research, drafting, case preparation and client liaison in firms, in house teams or public bodies.
- **Compliance Officer** – ensuring organisations follow legal, regulatory and ethical standards (common in finance, healthcare, tech and charities).
- **Civil Service / Policy Officer** – working on legislation, regulation or justice policy in central or local government.
- **Human Resources Officer** – applying employment law knowledge to recruitment, employee relations and organisational policy.
- **Company Secretary / Governance Professional** – advising boards on corporate governance, regulation and company law.
- **Insurance or Risk Analyst** – assessing legal and commercial risk, drafting policies, and handling claims.
- **Advice and Advocacy Worker** (e.g. Citizens Advice, NGOs, charities) – helping individuals with legal and quasi legal problems such as housing, welfare and immigration.

A law degree from Birkbeck will provide students with not only a broad range of transferable skills, but knowledge and understanding of the English legal system that may be relevant within a diverse range of jobs and roles.

Birkbeck's Law graduates will complete with a set of valuable attributes, for example:

The ability to work as part of a team

- High-level oral and written communication skills in English
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing types of information
- The ability to present yourself and an argument

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

In addition to the centralised support offered by the College, the School of Law also has bespoke careers support, including:

- Internship and clinical practice opportunities
- Scholarship schemes
- Birkbeck Mooting team (award winning)
- The Legal Practice Conversation Series
- Practitioner Engagement – 'Visiting Lawyers'
- Practitioner Engagement in Teaching

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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