PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**LLM Law (SQE1)** *Specialist pathway exit awards:* - LLM Law with Commercial and Business Contexts (SQE1) - LLM Law with Law, Technology, and Sustainable Governance (SQE1) - LLM Law with International Law, Justice, and Human Rights (SQE1)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Cert Law: students who successfully complete 60 credits of academically focused law modules (but not including the SQE1 module) will be eligible for an exit award of Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert Law). PG Dip Law: for students who successfully complete 120 credits of academically focused law modules (but not including the SQE1 module.)
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London - In partnership with Barbri (SQE Exam preparation provider)
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 (1 year), Part-time (2 years) October
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	*'not applicable'* - https://www.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/ The rationale for the degree is directly related to the introduction of the Solicitors Qualifying Exam introduced in 2021.
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMLLWSQE_C
HECoS Code	100485
Start date of programme	Autumn 2026
Date of programme approval	Spring 2026
Date of last programme amendment approval	Summer 2026
Valid for academic entry year	**2026-27**
Programme Director	TBC
Date of last revision to document	26/06/2026

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.

Degree requirements:
A 2:2 or above at undergraduate level in Law (an LLB.)

Law graduates with less than 2:2 honours degree who also have other legal qualifications and/or substantial professional legal experience will also be considered.

Other routes:
A Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) or LLM covering the 7 foundations of Legal Knowledge (as recognised by the Bar Standards Board). Non-law graduates may also be considered on the basis of exceptional professional experience (of at least five years) in a legal area or an area directly related to their programme of study as well as a minimum of a 2:1 undergraduate honour degree.

Course aims

The LLM with SQE1 at Birkbeck is a professionally focused master's degree designed to combine essential professional preparation alongside internationally recognised specialist research-led teaching. Students will undertake comprehensive preparation for Part 1 of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE1) with support from BARBRI, while simultaneously completing a specialized pathway.

Employability is at the heart of the programme. By teaching the Functioning Legal Knowledge (FLK) required for SQE1 alongside a Specialist Pathway, this course equips graduates with a rigorous grounding in black-letter law, expertise in specialist topics, and commercial and contextual awareness. Whether focusing on commerce, governance, or international law and human rights, students graduate ready to pass the first stage of their solicitor qualification exams and offer strategic value in their chosen sector.

Course structure

Students must complete the compulsory module, the SQE1 Preparation module (30 credits) and the remaining 150 credits of the degree can be chosen from optional modules on either one of three pathways (Commercial and Business Contexts; Technology and Sustainable Governance; International Law, Justice and Human Rights) or complete the LLM Law (SQE1) without a pathway by choosing optional modules from any pathway or from the general LLM Law.

To graduate with a pathway award, a minimum of 90 credits must be completed from the pathway's indicative options list, with up to a maximum of 30 credits that can be taken from any option available to students on the other pathways or the general LLM Law.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year					
7	SC08012S7	SQE1 Preparation	30	Compulsory	T1-3
7		Options For named pathway, a min of 90 credits from the pathway indicative list. Remaining 30 credits can be from the indicative list or any modules available on our LLM with Pathways.	150	Option	T1,2, or 3

Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
7	SC08012S7	SQE1 Preparation	30	Compulsory	T1-3
7		Options For named pathway, a min of 90 credits overall from that pathway's indicative list. Remaining 30 credits can be from the indicative list or any modules available on our LLM with Pathways.	60	Option	T1,2, or 3
Year 2					
7		Options For named pathway, a min of 90 credits overall from that pathway's indicative list. Remaining 30 credits can be from the indicative list or any modules available on our LLM with Pathways.	90	Option	T1,2, or 3
Indicative Option Modules by Pathway					
Commercial and Business Contexts					
7	LALW102S7	Commercial Law and Market Regulation	30	Option	T1
7	LALW119H7	Competition Law (Senior Status)	15	Option	T3
7	LALW069H7	Banking and Monetary Law (Senior Status)	15	Option	T1
7	LALW104S7	International Intellectual Property Law	30	Option	T1
7	LALW106S7	Intellectual Property and Global Health	30	Option	T2
7	LALW109S7	Regulating the Creative Economy	30	Option	T2
7	LADD059S7	Algorithms and the Law	30	Option	T1
7	BUMN173H7	Legal Perspectives on Governance	15	Option	T3
7	BUMN085H7	The Principles of Marketing	15	Option	T1
7	MOMN010H7	Principles of Organization and Management	15	Option	T1
7	BUOB078H7	Employment Law	15	Option	T2
7	BUOB043H7	Human Resources in Organisations	15	Option	T2
7	MOMN082H7	Strategic Management	15	Option	T2
7	MOMN038H7	Intellectual Property and Artificial Intelligence	15	Option	T1
7	SC03017S7	The Ethics of Technology and Artificial Intelligence	30	Option	T1
7	LALW104S7	International Intellectual Property	30	Option	T1
7	LALA004S7	Law Masters Research Project	30	Option	T2-T3
Law, Technology, and Sustainable Governance					
7	LALW106S7	Intellectual Property and Global Health	30	Option	T2
7	LADD059S7	Algorithms and the Law	30	Option	T1
7	LALW060S7	Regulating Technology	30	Option	T2

7	SC08017S7	Biodiversity, Society and the Law	30	Option	T2
7	LALW061S7	Labour, Law and Technology	30	Option	T2
7	LALA078S7	Environmental Problems and the Law	30	Option	T2
7	SSGE126S7	Urban Sustainability	30	Option	T1
7	LALW081S7	Law, Nature and Planetary Justice	30	Option	T2
7	BUMN173H7	Legal Perspectives on Governance	15	Option	T3
7	BUMN069H7	Institutions, Governance and Development	15	Option	T1
7	MOMN074H7	Globalisation: Forces, Players and Management	15	Option	T3
7	LALA004S7	Law Masters Research Project	30	Option	T2-T3
International Law, Justice, and Human Rights					
7	LADD028S7	Issues in International Law and Human Rights	30	Option	T1
7	LADD005S7	The History and Philosophy of Human Rights	30	Option	T2
7	LADD013S7	Taking a Case to the European Court of Human Rights	30	Option	T2
7	LADD029S7	Healthcare and Human Rights	30	Option	T3
7	LALW014S7	Negotiation, Interpretation and Explorations in Art & Human Rights	30	Option	T1
7	MOMN038H7	Intellectual Property and Artificial Intelligence	15	Option	T1
7	LADD066S7	Introduction to the History, Theory and Politics of Constitutional Law	30	Option	T2
7	LALW104S7	International Intellectual Property	30	Option	T1
7	LADD013S7	Taking a Case to the European Court of Human Rights	30	Option	T3
7	BUMN173H7	Legal Perspectives on Governance	15	Option	T3
7	BUMN069H7	Institutions, Governance and Development	15	Option	T1
7	MOMN074H7	Globalisation: Forces, Players and Management	15	Option	T3
7	LADD058S7	Criminal Law, Theory and History	30	Option	T2
7	LALA004S7	Law Masters Research Project	30	Option	T2-T3

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

Note: For modules cross-listed at level 6, students cannot take the module at level 7 if they had previously completed the module at level 6.

SQE Preparation modules are non-weighted and will not affect final classification.

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.

Teaching on this course is a combination of lectures (pre-recorded) and seminars. Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare.

How we will assess you

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

In-person exams, short written exercises, essays which will develop in length and expected complexity as you progress through your studies, quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires, case studies, problems to solve, etc.

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.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced legal research, reasoning, problem-solving, and communication skills appropriate to master's-level study and high-level legal analysis.
- Demonstrate full understanding of, and the ability to apply in a practical context, the key principles of law and practice relating to Functioning Legal Knowledge (as defined by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.)
- Demonstrate systematic and in-depth knowledge of specialist areas chosen through optional modules, and critically assess the relationships between legal principles, doctrine, and contemporary issues in those fields.
- Critically evaluate the social, economic, political and/or commercial contexts that shape legal doctrine and contemporary legal issues in specialist areas.
- Demonstrate self-direction, effective time management, and resilience in balancing the demands of intensive master's-level academic study.
- Apply critical thinking, adaptability, and professional judgement in addressing novel or uncertain legal problems and communicate complex legal ideas clearly and persuasively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Careers and further study

You will find LLM Law with SQE1 graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- **Solicitor** – Qualify through the SQE route to practise in England and Wales in commercial, criminal, or private client work.

- **Barrister** – Combine the LLM's advanced legal research and advocacy skills with Bar training to practise as a barrister.
- **In-house Legal Counsel** – Advise corporations, charities, or public bodies on contracts, compliance, and risk management.
- **Paralegal or Legal Executive** – Gain professional experience that counts toward SQE Qualifying Work Experience (QWE).
- **Compliance or Regulatory Officer** – Work within financial services, healthcare, or data protection to ensure organisations meet legal and ethical standards.
- **Policy Adviser / Legal Policy Officer** – Influence legislation, justice reform, or human rights initiatives in government or NGOs.
- **Legal Researcher / Academic** – Contribute to research, teaching, or public legal education in universities or think tanks.
- **Legal Technology / Innovation Specialist** – Develop or manage digital tools and AI systems transforming modern legal practice.
- **Human Rights or NGO Legal Officer** – Provide legal advocacy and casework in international or social justice organisations.
- **Contracts or Risk Manager** – Oversee legal agreements and manage compliance risks for companies or institutions.

Other potential roles include work in dispute resolution, corporate governance, project management, or consultancy — where legal reasoning, research, and analytical skills gained from the LLM and SQE training are highly valued both within and beyond the legal profession.

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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