

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	LLM Environmental Law, Policy and Governance				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMLENLPG_C				
5	UCAS code (if applicable)	N/A				
6	Home Department	Law				
7	Exit Award(s)	PG Cert / PG Dip				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1FT 2PT				
9	Mode of Study	FT	x	PT	X	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution (or not applicable)	Politics – access to relevant modules will depend on availability of space.				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (or not applicable) <i>(include URL to PSRB)</i>	N/A				
13	<u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u> (or not applicable)	N/A				
14	Programme Rationale & Aims					
	<p>This is a time of accelerating environmental crises: climate breakdown, biodiversity loss, increasing stresses on, or conflicts over, natural resources as a result of pollution, overconsumption, inequality and poverty and the unintended or negative impacts of advancing technology. Individuals and societies have increasingly turned to the law for solutions to environmental problems. While legal responses have been innovative and creative, challenges persist in the use of law to respond to complex environmental problems.</p> <p>Birkbeck’s LLM degree in Environmental Law, Policy and Governance is an innovative research-led programme aimed at graduates. It offers postgraduate students the theoretical and practical knowledge crucial for a nuanced understanding of the ways in which policy, the law and governance structures respond to environmental problems.</p> <p>At Birkbeck we focus on a critical understanding of environmental problems and responses to them as well as their intersection with other challenges such as racial and economic inequalities. In addition, students will be introduced to law, policy and governance responses to environmental problems from a variety of sources: international, EU and different national legal systems.</p> <p>The programme adopts blended learning techniques employing online activities, materials and tools alongside in-person or online or seminars.</p> <p>The programme aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce students to core themes, principles and theory underpinning environmental law; • Facilitate students to develop a nuanced understanding of environmental problems and the various applicable governance tools and frameworks; 					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expose students to a range of ideas and scholarship across disciplines; • Develop students' ability to understand and critically analyse a range of literature, policy and legal instruments at an advanced level; • Equip students for a career in practice, policy work or research at an advanced and marketable level; • Deliver flexible, blended learning through a variety of online and VLE-mediated tools and, if possible, in person sessions.
15	Entry Criteria
	<p>A 2:1 degree in law or in any degree programme related to the aims and content of the programme. Relevant work experience will be considered.</p>
16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>Upon completion of the programme, students will be expected to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and explain key legal mechanisms and frameworks for protecting the environment; • Understand the intersection between environmental and other societal challenges, as well as the interaction between environmental and other areas of law; • Transfer their understanding of complex problems and regulatory responses to different contexts; • Critically evaluate legal, regulatory and policy proposals concerning environmental challenges; • Engage with contemporary legal and policy discussions regarding environmental challenges; • Draw on relevant literature and law to independently generate and communicate written or oral discussions on the themes of the programme.
17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>The course is delivered via three terms of seminar teaching, taught in the evenings. The programme adopts blended learning techniques employing online activities, materials and tools alongside in-person or online or seminars reserved for advanced discussion and debate. Students will take one compulsory module per term (part time students will need to take both in the first year). The compulsory modules will introduce students to environmental problems and legal responses to them and the second will provide a critical insight into environmental and public health protection law, their evolution, aims and overarching principles. In the second term/year, students choose from a range of specialist optional modules. Students can complete their degree with four optional modules or three optional modules plus a research project module.</p>
18	Programme Description
	<p>This is a time of accelerating environmental crises: climate breakdown, biodiversity loss, increasing stresses on, or conflicts over, natural resources as a result of pollution, overconsumption, inequality and poverty and the unintended or negative impacts of advancing technology. Habitat destruction threatens species and communities which depend on those habitats, as well as public health due to the increased risk of zoonosis transmission, as highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic. In response, high-profile movements such as the youth climate strikes, Extinction Rebellion and international concern over toxics in the environment indicate the mainstreaming of concern for the environment and reflect an intensifying search for new ideas, tools, institutions and alternative</p>

<p>economic structures to address environmental problems. The law has long played a significant role in protecting the environment (and indeed in facilitating environmental harm) and, while imperfect, individuals and society turn to the law for solutions to environmental problems.</p> <p>Birkbeck's LLM degree in Environmental Law, Policy and Governance is an innovative research-led programme aimed at law and non-law, international and national, graduates, including those already in employment as legal practitioners or otherwise. Understanding of environmental problems and means of addressing them will become increasingly important in all aspects of society. This LLM offers postgraduate students a solid and nuanced grounding in the theoretical and practical knowledge crucial for a critical understanding of the ways in which policy, the law and governance structures respond to environmental problems.</p>

19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	LALW078S7	Environmental Problems and the Law	30	Compulsory
7	LALW043S7	Environmental Law and Justice	30	Compulsory
7	Various	Option*	30	Option
7	Various	Option*	30	Option
7	Various	Option*	30	Option
7	Various	Option*	30	Option
*Indicative Options include:				
7	LALW037S7	Tackling Climate Change: Legal Responses	30	optional
7	LALW036S7	Regulating New Technologies and Uncertain Risks	30	optional
7	LADD019S7	The World Trade Organization and the Environment	30	optional
7	LALW060S7	Regulating Technology	30	optional
7	LALA004S7	Law Masters Research Project	30	optional
7	SSPO121S7	Geopolitics, Population and Environment (Politics)	30	optional
7	LALW079S7	Commons, Public Space and the Law	30	optional
7	LALW080S7	International Business and the Environment	30	optional
7	LALW081S7	Natural Resources Law: Critical Perspectives	30	optional
Part Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	LALW078S7	Environmental Problems and the Law	30	Compulsory
7	LALW043S7	Environmental Law and Justice	30	Compulsory
7	Various	Option*	30	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	Various	Option*	30	Option
7	Various	Option*	30	Option
7	Various	Option*	30	Option
*Indicative Options include:				
7	LALW037S7	Tackling Climate Change: Legal Responses	30	optional
7	LALW036S7	Regulating New Technologies and Uncertain Risks	30	optional
7	LADD019S7	The World Trade Organization and the Environment	30	optional

7	LALW060S7	Regulating Technology	30	optional
7	LALA004S7	Law Masters Research Project	30	optional
7	SSPO121S7	Geopolitics, Population and Environment (Politics)	30	optional
7	LALW079S7	Commons, Public Space and the Law	30	optional
7	LALW080S7	International Business and the Environment	30	optional
7	LALW081S7	Natural Resources Law: Critical Perspectives	30	optional

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student

COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board

OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	Regulations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf • Credit Transfer Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf • Programme Regulations This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations • Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable) N/A

21	Student Attendance Framework – in brief
	<p>The full version of the ‘Student Attendance Framework’ is available http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf .</p> <p>Principle Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.</p> <p>Attendance expectation Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.</p> <p>E-Registers All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.</p>

22	Student Support and Guidance
	All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services

23	<p>Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards</p> <p>The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.</p> <p>For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality .</p>
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24	Programme Director	Dr Olivia Hamlyn
25	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 2021
26	Date approved by Education Committee	Autumn 2020
27	Date approved by Academic Board	TBC
28	Date(s) updated/amended	11 January 2021