LLM International Law and World Order
For students entering in October 2005

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading
Faculty: Economic and Social Sciences   Programme length: 12 months
Date of profile: August 2004
Programme Director: Director of Taught Postgraduate Studies (Dr A.Abass)
Board of Studies: Law (LLB/LLM)
Accreditation: None

Please note that all aspects of the degree programme may be subject to change where such change is educationally desirable or practically necessary.

Summary of Programme Aims
To introduce students to theoretical and practical approaches to the study of the separate but related disciplines of International Law and International Relations through the study of a core module in International Law and World Order and to encourage interdisciplinary scholarship. In particular this degree programme encourages the ability to delineate and evaluate issues, select relevant materials and produce arguments encompassing policy, existing practice and knowledge at an advanced level in International Law and International Relations. It seeks also to develop those practical, generic and personal transferable skills necessary to conduct independent research.

Transferable skills
Students are encouraged to act independently in planning tasks and use feedback to reflect on their performance and re-assess the appropriateness of current levels of knowledge and skill. Students are expected to acquire an ability to think analytically, to develop frameworks for considering and resolving complex problems, and to discriminate between good and bad arguments. In addition, a law graduate will be used to presenting arguments (both technical and general) orally and in writing and should be able to present such arguments clearly and concisely. Students will be able to research a variety of sources in libraries and on the internet, and, in particular, to research and assess academic literature. Particular elements of the programme expose students to the use of information technology and encourage the development of general professional capabilities including recognition of deadlines and time management.

Programme content
The programme consists of 180 credits; a taught element (120 credits) and a dissertation (60 credits). Within the taught element there are two core modules in International Law and World Order (30 credits) and Research Methods (30 credits). The remaining 60 credits of the taught element must be made up as follows:
• two modules from a choice of postgraduate modules offered by either the School of Law or the Graduate Institute of Political and International Studies (GIPIS), OR
• one module from a choice of postgraduate modules offered by either the School of Law or GIPIS and a further module chosen from a list of LLB modules (20 credits) together with a compulsory Writing Credit (10 credits) in the field of study covered in the LLB module.

Compulsory modules:	Credits	Level
LWM03A International Law and World Order	30	M
LWM05A Research Methods	30	M
LWM01A Dissertation	60	M

Part-time/Modular arrangements
The programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student will be required to complete the core module in International Law and World Order and one further module; in the second year of study, a student will be required to complete the core module in Research Methods, one further optional module and the Dissertation. The programme may not be completed over more than two years.

Progression requirements
Full-time Candidates
The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark	Interpretation
70 – 100%	Distinction
60 – 69%	Merit
50 – 59%	Good standard (Pass)
Failing categories:	
40 – 49%	Work below threshold standard
0 – 39%	Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degree

To pass the LLM, students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall in modules worth 180 credits including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits. Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and will be eligible for a Merit.

For PG Diploma
To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more in modules worth 120 credits and have no mark below 40. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.
Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more will be awarded eligible for a Merit.

For PG Certificate
To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more in modules worth 60 credits and have no mark below 40.

Part-time Candidates
A part-time candidate may only proceed into his or her second year if he or she has achieved 2 marks of at least 50% in his or her first year. Thereafter, the progression requirements of full-time students outlined above will apply. A part-time candidate who chooses not to proceed to his or her second year may be considered for the award of Certificate in Law if he or she gains an average mark of 50 or more in modules worth 60 credits and have no mark below 40.

Summary of teaching and assessment
Teaching methods will vary from module to module but teaching will primarily be by means of seminars. Certain modules may be partially taught by means of lectures and tutorials.

All modules, other than the Dissertation, research Methods and the Postgraduate Writing Credit (where taken), will be assessed by means of a timed, unseen examination together with assessed written work or other forms of assessed work (for example an oral presentation).

Details of the methods of assessment in individual modules are given in the Module Description Forms.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a degree in law or a degree with a substantial legal component with a first or upper second class honours. All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the School may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

Admissions Tutor:

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Earley
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Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which maintains several hundred computers across the university, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a degree programme and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors and the Students Union.

Within the School of Law, personal and academic tutors will provide help and guidance on academic, and where appropriate, other matters. A member of the academic staff of the School acts a Careers Advisor and the School has a Director of Taught Postgraduate Studies (Dr A.Abass) to provide student support. In addition, all students receive a detailed Handbook to help them study law successfully.

Careers prospects

While very many law graduates take professional exams in law and go on to practise law either in the UK or abroad, many others pursue alternative careers. This is particularly the case with those who have chosen to pursue a postgraduate qualification in law. A postgraduate law degree does not disqualify you from any career open to non-specialist graduates and the skills it engenders are in great demand from non-legal employers. Equally, a postgraduate law degree will open many doors in more specialised areas of employment such as academia (with further postgraduate study), the media (journalism and broadcasting), the civil service and other branches of public service.

Opportunities for study abroad

The programme does not involve study abroad

Educational Aims of the programme

The overarching aim of this course is to provide a programme of legal and political study which affords a conceptual framework for the study of the international relations of states which will facilitate the recognition and appreciation by students of the overall mosaic of law and politics in the international

sphere and permits detailed study of some aspects of law and politics. As well as specific knowledge of international law and international relations, students should acquire the intellectual and practical skills expected of students with a postgraduate qualification.

Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and Understanding of:	**Teaching and learning methods and strategies**
1. Key issues in international law and international relations and the process of interdisciplinary analysis of international issues; 2. A range of research methodologies sufficient to formulate appropriate and relevant research questions and conduct independent research in law; 3. A select range of options to broaden understanding of the operation of law at an advanced level; 4. Appropriate contextual background to understand the substantive law.	The basic knowledge in all modules is provided by seminars, although some modules may be include lectures. All seminars allow a student to gauge his/her progress in that module and will require significant student input into the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge. The critical input into learning is provided by a student's own reading and preparation for group discussions (particularly engagement with primary sources). *Assessment* Modules adopt a variety of assessment methods but all modules utilise either summative assessed work or an end of year unseen, timed exam. The majority of modules utilise a combination of both methods of assessment.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:	**Teaching and learning methods and strategies**
1. Think logically; 2. Analyse and problems and issues; 3. Discriminate between relevant and irrelevant material; 4. Understand technical material; 5. Apply relevant knowledge effectively; and 6. Construct defensible arguments and exercise critical judgment.	Logic, analytical skill and the ability to apply relevant knowledge is inherent in the study of law and these skills are encouraged and developed in seminars. *Assessment* Both formal examinations and summative assessed work assess all these skills either directly or indirectly.

C. Practical skills – able to:
1. Discover and use legal and/or political and contextual materials from a variety of sources; and
2. Evaluate legal and/or political and contextual material both individually and a part of a team;
3. Construct and present (orally and in writing) defensible arguments and exercise critical judgment.

Teaching and learning methods and strategies:
All the practical skills are present in each module and are developed through seminars. The essence of legal study is to provide an answer to a practical legal problem having identified the legal issues, selected relevant facts and used appropriate law to provide a solution. The encouragement of these faculties is inherent in all parts of the degree. All modules seek to develop powers of critical analysis and judgement.
Assessment
The written element of 3 is directly assessed through summative assessed work and/or formal examinations (examinations indirectly assess 1 and 2). The dissertation requires elements of 2 and 3. Some modules assess oral communication (formatively or summatively).

D. Transferable skills – able to:
1. Work independently and hard;
2. Use different types of information sources;
3. Communicate technical material effectively both orally and in writing; and
4. Construct defensible arguments and exercise critical judgement;
5. Reflect critically on one's own learning;
6. Consider career development.

Teaching and learning methods and strategies
Law is a subject of considerable complexity; some material is difficult and not all of it is of overpowering interest – a student must work hard to engage with such material. A student will be required regularly to participate in class discussions and make presentations. He or she will be required to engage with a considerable amount of academic and other literature and to assess and evaluate such literature critically and in the context of presenting advanced arguments both orally and in writing.
Assessment
Both formal examinations and summative assessed work assess all these skills (oral skills are assessed in at least one module) other than 5 & 6. Seminars encourage a student to reflect on his or her own learning. Guidance is given throughout the degree programme on career development.

Please note: **This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.**