

LLB LAW

For students entering Part 1 in October 2006

UCAS code UM100

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group:	Law
Faculty: Economics and Social Sciences	Programme length: 3 years
Date of profile: Jan 2007	
Programme Director: Head of School of Law	
Programme Advisor: Director of Teaching and Learning, School of Law	
Board of Studies: Law	
Accreditation: The Law Society; General Council of the Bar; individual modules may be acceptable for accreditation by other professional bodies.	

Please note that the School of Law intends that the LLB will be a qualifying law degree (QLD) for all students. However, all other aspects of the degree programme may be subject to change where such change is educationally desirable or practically necessary.

Summary of Programme Aims

In addition to the imparting of legal knowledge this degree programme encourages the ability to delineate and evaluate issues, select relevant materials and produce arguments encompassing policy, existing practice and knowledge; solving practical problems and predicting how these solutions might change is the essence of a law degree.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem solving, team working and use of information technology.

In addition, 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. 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. Particular elements of the programme expose students to the use of information technology, group-working, such numeracy as is appropriate for law students and encourage the development of general professional capabilities including recognition of deadlines and time management.

Programme content

Students are required to take 120 credits in each part of the degree programme. In all Parts there are compulsory and optional modules.

Part 1 (three terms)

The following Part 1 modules are open to students registered for Part 1 of the LLB (Law) degree. All compulsory Part 1 modules consist of subjects which must be studied and passed to obtain a qualifying law degree. All Part 1 modules (compulsory and optional) offered by the School of Law are at level HE1 (Certificate - C) level.

Compulsory modules:		Credits
LW1A04	Law of Tort	20
LW1A01	Law of Contract	20
LW1A03	General Principles of Law (including English Legal System)	20
LW1A46	Legal Skills	20
LW1A02	Criminal Law	20

Optional modules:

Students must take EITHER

1	LW1A47	Writing Skills	20
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OR

2	Modules totalling 20 credits from a range of modules offered at Part 1 by other Schools and Departments of the University.		
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Progression requirements

In order to proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 of the LLB (Law) degree a student must:

- a) obtain a "Pass" in Legal Skills plus a mark of at least 40% in all remaining law modules; and
- b) achieve an overall average of 40% across all credits for which a numerical mark is awarded.

Part 2 (three terms)

The following modules are open to students registered for Part 2 of the LLB (Law) degree. All compulsory Part 2 modules (other than Writing Credit L2) consist of subjects which must be studied and passed to obtain a qualifying law degree. All compulsory Part 2 modules offered by the School of Law are at HE2 (Intermediate - I) level.

Compulsory modules		Credits
LW2CAL	Constitutional and Administrative Law	30
LW2EQT	Equity and Trusts	30
LW2LAN	Land Law	30
LW2WC2	Writing Credit L2	10

Optional module

In addition students registered for Part 2 of the LLB (Law) must take EITHER:

1	Law Option	Credits 20
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OR

2	Modules totalling 20 credits from a range of modules offered at I or H level by other Schools and Departments of the University.
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The options which may be taught by the School are set out in the requirements for Part 3 of the LLB (Law) degree programme. Only a limited range of options will be open to Part 2 students in any academic year. While the options open to Part 2 students will vary from year to year, European Law will always be offered. The School provides information on the options open to Part 2 students during Part 1. Options offered to Part 2 students may be at HE3 (H) level.

Progression requirements

In order to proceed from Part 2 to Part 3 of the LLB (Law) degree a student must:

- a) obtain at least 40% in all law modules taken in Part 2.
- b) achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination.

Part 3 (three terms)

The following modules are open to students registered for Part 3 of the LLB (Law) degree. The foundation Part 3 module and all optional modules offered by the School of Law are at HE3 (Honours - H) level.

Students must select one foundation module. (Only one of the foundation modules may be taken).

Foundation module	Credits
LW3WC3 Writing Credit L3	20
or	
LW3PRO Pro Bono Writing Credit	20
or	
LW3ILM International Law Mooting	20
or	
LW3DUG Dissertation	40

In addition students registered for Part 3 of the LLB (Law) must take:

Optional modules	Credits
If the foundation module is 20 credits, options amounting to	100
or	
If the foundation module is 40 credits, options amounting to	80

Part 3 Options

The list of options available at Part 3 level will vary from year to year. Applicants seeking advice on the current options open at Part 3 level may consult the prospectus, our web page or an admissions tutor. Students will receive information about options from the School before Part 3 commences. All optional modules offered by the School of Law in Part 3 are at HE3 (Honours) level and are 20 credits.

Modules offered by the School of Law generally include:

Child Law	Family Law
Commercial Leases	History of English Law
Company Law	Human Rights Law
Criminal Justice	Intellectual Property Law
Criminology	International Law
Employment Law	Jurisprudence
Environmental Law	Medical Law
EU Law	Revenue Law

A student may opt to take modules comprising 20 credits from the range of modules offered at I or H level by other schools and department of the University.

Career management skills, equivalent to 5 credits, are taught pervasively within the 360 credits in Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Students should note that in order to obtain a qualifying law degree one option studied and passed in either Part 2 or Part 3 must be the module in European law.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching methods will vary from module to module but teaching in most cases will be by means of lectures, tutorials and seminars.

Most modules will be assessed by means of a timed, unseen or seen examination. Some modules may require assessed written work or other forms of assessed work (for example an oral presentation) in addition to, or in substitution for, an examination. 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:
UCAS: AAB across 3 A2 level examinations (not including General Studies)
Scottish Highers: Advanced AAB
Irish Highers: AAABB
International Baccalaureate: 34 points

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the School may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example 2 or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits. We recommend you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

International applicants. Applications from international candidates are welcomed. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences Undergraduate Admissions Office, Email: fasug@reading.ac.uk before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications. IELTS Band 7 (or equivalent) will be required for those whose education has not been undertaken in English.

Applicants wishing to make any inquiries should contact the Admissions Secretary who will pass the query to an appropriate Admissions Tutor. The Admissions Secretary can be contacted by: Telephone on 0118 931 8018 (44 118 931 8018 for callers from outside the UK) or Email: law-ug-admissions@lists.reading.ac.uk as well as by post.

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, Hall Wardens 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 Teaching & Learning and a Senior Tutor 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. A 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. Those interested in alternative professions may choose to pursue training as, for example, an accountant, a patent agent or company secretary. Recent graduates have become commodity traders, stockbrokers and bankers (including joining the Bank of England) as well as entering general management. We have graduates working in computing and publishing, running their own businesses (including one fashion designer) and journalism. The civil service and other branches of public service attract others. Lawyers believe they can do anything and frequently they are right.

Opportunities for study abroad

Applicants who are interested in studying law in another EU country for one year in addition to the normal LLB programme should, normally, apply for Law with Legal Studies in Europe (4 years). However, transfer to a four-year degree programme is possible before entering onto Part 2 of the three year LLB degree. For details of the four-year degree programme see the information specific to that programme. We have links with universities in most EU countries. In recent years we have had students spend a year at the Universities of Paris X (Nanterre), Barcelona, Trier (Germany), Geneva, Maastricht (Holland) and Uppsala (Sweden). The last two universities teach law in English and are particularly popular. We have received visitors from all these universities and the Universities of Salamanca (Spain), Trento (Italy) and Poitiers (France).

Educational Aims of the programme

The overarching aim of this course is to provide a programme of legal study which affords a conceptual framework for the study of law which will facilitate the recognition and appreciation by students of the overall mosaic of public and private law and permits detailed study of some aspects of law. The degree aims to provide coverage of the core areas of English law while also providing a range of options which allows students to bias their studies in particular directions.

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:

1. The core areas of English law necessary for professional accreditation;
2. A range of options to broaden understanding of the operation of law;
3. Selected areas of law in depth;
4. European and International law where it has had an impact upon English law.
5. Appropriate contextual background to understand the substantive law.

Teaching and learning methods and strategies

The basic knowledge in compulsory modules is provided by lectures and tutorials and, where appropriate, by online support. Optional modules may be taught by lectures and tutorials or seminars. All tutorials and seminars allow a student to gauge his/her progress in that module and may 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). Compulsory modules will normally use formative assessed work.

Assessment

Knowledge and understanding is assessed through end of year formal examinations in all compulsory modules, except Legal Skills, where there is on-line assessment throughout the module. Optional modules adopt a variety of assessment methods but an end of year unseen, timed exam is a component in almost all modules.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:

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.

Teaching and learning methods and strategies

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 tutorials, seminars and formative assessed work.

Assessment

Both formal examinations and summative assessed work assess all these skills either directly or indirectly.

C. Practical skills – able to:

1. Solve practical legal problems;
2. Discover and use legal and contextual materials from a variety of sources; and
3. Evaluate legal and contextual material both individually and a part of a team;
4. 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 part of the degree and are developed through tutorials and seminars as well as formative essays. 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

1 and 4 (other than oral arguments) are directly assessed through formal examinations (examinations indirectly assess 2 and 3). Writing Skills and Writing Credit require elements of 2-4 and may require a solution to a practical legal problem. Some modules assess (formatively or summatively) team working and oral communication.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. Work independently and hard;
2. Solve practical problems;
3. Work individually or as part of a team;
4. Use different types of information sources;
5. Communicate technical material, which in some modules will include numerical information, effectively both orally and in writing; and
6. Construct defensible arguments and exercise critical judgement;
7. Reflect critically on one's own learning;
8. 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 over-powering interest – a student must work hard to engage with such material. Many subjects require a student to provide an answer to a practical legal problem having identified the legal issues, selected relevant facts and used appropriate law, which may involve directed or undirected research, to provide a solution. Having sought a solution, which may involve group work as well as individual effort, a student must be able to defend his or her conclusions and communicate it in appropriate language to an audience. Tutorials and seminars, formative essay work, presentations and teamwork encourage and develop these skills during the degree programme.

Assessment

Both formal examinations and summative assessed work assess all these skills (oral skills are assessed only in some modules) other than 7. Personal tutorial meetings (PARs meetings) encourage students to reflect on his or her own learning and career plans.

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 be expected 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 the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.