

LLB Law
For students entering Part 1 in October 2006

UCAS code: UM100

Awarding Institution:
Teaching Institution:

The University of Reading
Taylor's University College,
Malaysia and The University
of Reading

Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group:
Faculty: Economics and Social Sciences
Date of profile: Jan 2007

Law
Programme length: 3 years

Programme Director: Head of School of Law
Programme Advisor: Director of Teaching, 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 studying on this programme will normally spend Part 1 and Part 2 at Taylor's University College, Malaysia. Students who successfully complete Part 2 will transfer to the University of Reading to study Part 3. Students who successfully complete Part 1 may, with the prior approval of the Head of School, transfer to the University of Reading to study Parts 2 and 3.

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 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
LW1A47	Writing Skills	20

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 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:

Law Option	20
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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. The options open to Part 2 students may vary from year to year and will depend upon whether Part 2 is being taken at Taylor's University College or the University of Reading. 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 obtain:

- a) at least 40% in all 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 departments elsewhere in 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: Grades CCD from any 3 A level examinations (not including General Studies) or equivalent.
- In addition, IELTS Band 6.5 (or equivalent) will be required.

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

Applicants wishing to make any enquiries should contact the Admissions Tutor for the programme at Taylor's University College.

Support for students and their learning

At Taylor's University College

Taylor's University College students are able to use several hundred computers in six computer laboratories which are open until 9.00 pm from Monday to Friday, and also on Saturday. In addition, they are able to access the College's facilities by lap-top computer through a number of connections placed around the campus. The College has a dedicated IT Support Centre. The College's Library holds relevant textbooks and journals, as well as providing access to on-line publications. It is open from 7.30 am to 9.00 pm from Monday to Friday, and also on Saturday. Students studying on the LLB Law at Taylor's University College will have full access to the 'Westlaw' legal database.

Students studying at Taylor's University College will be allocated a Personal Tutor based at the College, who will provide guidance and welfare support. The College has an English Language Centre, which gives tailored support for particular programmes,

including an 'English for Law' course which will be compulsory for all students studying on this programme.

At the University of Reading

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 Studies/Senior Tutor to provide student support. A member of the Reading teaching staff will have particular responsibility for students from Taylor's University College. 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

Not applicable.

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 Credit require elements of 2-4 and may require a solution to a practical legal problem. Some modules assess (formatively or summatively) teamworking 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 encourage student 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.