

**LLB Law with Legal Studies in Europe
For students entering Part 1 in October 2007**

UCAS code: UM125

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group:	Law
Faculty:	Social Sciences
Programme length:	4 years
Date of profile:	Jan 2007
Programme Director:	Professor Chris Newdick
Programme Advisor:	
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 this 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. In addition, an understanding of aspects of the law and legal techniques of a European country is anticipated.

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 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. Students may also have enhanced skills in a foreign language and be familiar with living in another European country.

Programme content

Students must 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 with LSE) 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	Level
LW1CON	Contract	20	C
LW1CRI	Criminal Law	20	C
LW1GPL	General Principles of Law (including English Legal System)	20	C
LW1LS	Legal Skills	20	C
LW1TOR	Tort	20	C

Optional modules:

Students must take one of three options:

- | | | | | |
|-----------|----|--|----|---|
| | 1. | Relevant Language Studies | 20 | C |
| OR | | | | |
| | 2. | LW1WS Writing Skills | 20 | C |
| OR | | | | |
| | 3. | Modules totalling 20 credits from a range of modules offered at Part 1 by other Schools and Departments of the University. | | |

Students will be advised as to which of these options is appropriate based upon their existing standard in the relevant language (oral and written) and the provision available at the university, at the beginning of Part 1 by the Programme Director. Please note that the University of Reading can usually only provide language teaching in French, German and Italian although Spanish teaching may be available in some circumstances.

Progression requirements

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

- obtain a "Pass" in Legal Skills plus a mark of at least 40% in all remaining law modules and, where taken, Language Studies;
- 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 with LSE) 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	Level
LW2CAL	Constitutional and Administrative Law	30	I
LW2EQT	Equity and Trusts	30	I
LW2LAN	Land Law	30	I
LW2WC2	Writing Credit L2	10	I

Optional module

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|----|---|
| 1 | Law Option | 20 | I |
| OR | | | |
| 2 | Relevant Language Studies | 20 | I |

It may be appropriate for a student intending to study abroad in a language other than English to take a further language module in Part 2. The Programme Director, Law with Legal Studies in Europe, will discuss the appropriate choice of options with each student at the end of Part 1.

OR

3. Modules totalling 20 credits from a range of modules offered at I or H level by other Schools and Departments of the University.

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 the Year Abroad and to Part 3 of the LLB (Law with LSE) 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 with examinations.

Year Abroad (three terms)

This year is spent abroad at an approved university within the European Union appropriate to the linguistic skills of the student. Students must study and pass modules equivalent to 120 credits offered by the host university.

Students wishing to study in Holland will attend the University of Maastricht (teaching in English).

Students wishing to study in Sweden will attend the University of Uppsala (teaching in English).

Students wishing to study in France will attend the University of Paris X (teaching mainly in French).

Students wishing to study in Spain will attend the University of Bilbao (teaching mainly in Spanish).

Students wishing to study in Germany will attend the University of Trier (teaching mainly in German).

It may be possible to arrange links with other countries but contact the Programme Director before applying if you wish to study in a country other than those listed above.

The host university may offer a local qualification depending on the modules studied at passed at that institution. Credits undertaken in the above European countries are deemed to be at Intermediate Level.

Compulsory modules		Credits	Level
LW3A98	Law Year Abroad: Semester I	60	H
LW3A99	Law Year Abroad Semester II	60	H

Progression requirements

In order to proceed to Part 3 of the LLB (Law with LSE) degree a student must satisfactorily complete the year abroad. A student who has successfully completed Part 2 of the LLB (Law with LSE) degree but who fails satisfactorily to complete the year abroad may, with the approval of the University of Reading, transfer to the LLB (Law) degree programme.

Part 3 (three terms)

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

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

Foundation module		Credits	Level
LW3WC3	Writing Credit L3	20	H
or			
LW3PRO	Pro Bono Writing Credit	20	H
or			
LW3ILM	International Law Mooting	20	H
or			

LW3DUG	Dissertation	40	H
--------	--------------	----	---

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

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

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 (H) level and are 20 credits.

Modules offered by the School generally include:

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

A student may opt to take modules comprising 20 credits from the range of modules offered at level I or H by other schools and departments of the University or a module in a language new to them offered at Level C by the Institution-Wide Language Programme (IWLP), where the entry requirements for that chosen module are met.

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, either at Reading or at an approved university within the European Union must be a 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, seen or unseen 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.

Examinations during the year abroad will be conducted in accordance with the rules and practices of that institution and are likely to include oral examinations.

Classification: For classification purposes, Part 2 contributes to one third of the final assessment and Part 3 to the remaining two thirds.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS: AAB across 3 A2 level examinations (not including General Studies) including a relevant language where study abroad is not in English. An A or B grade in the relevant language at A level is usually required.

Scottish Highers: Advanced AAB. An A in a relevant language is usually required.

Irish Highers: AAABB. An A in a relevant language is usually required.

International Baccalaureate: 34 points (usually including a relevant language at Higher level with a grade of 6 or 7).

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the Department may vary these requirements if it sees fit. In particular we welcome applications from fluent speakers of a language relevant to the proposed year abroad who have not taken that language at A level. However, we seek to ensure that applicants without A level language are capable of studying law abroad in a local language (where required). We may impose a special entrance test to assess language competence.

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. This degree programme requires a year to be spent abroad and you must ensure your circumstances are compatible with this requirement.

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. We are happy to accept students who are proposing to spend year 3 at a university in their home (European) country onto this degree programme.

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 – 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 has several hundred computers, 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 (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme.

Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Directorate. The Student Services Directorate is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online (www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk), or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation periods). Further information can be found in the Student website (www.reading.ac.uk/student).

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 as Careers Advisor and the School has a Director of Teaching and 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 practice law either in the UK or abroad not merely in Europe, 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 European Commission, the UK 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

The third year of this degree programme is spent abroad at an approved university within the European Union appropriate to the linguistic skills of the student. See details above.

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 and the law of another EU country 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

<p>A. Knowledge and Understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.6 Aspects of the law and legal culture of another European state.	<p>Teaching and learning methods and strategies</p> <p>The basic knowledge in compulsory modules is provided by lectures and tutorials and where appropriate, by on-line 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.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Knowledge and understanding is assessed through end of year formal examinations in all compulsory modules except Legal Skills, where there is 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. The law of the European State visited is assessed during the year abroad.</p>
--	--

Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Think logically;2 Analyse problems and issues;3 Discriminate between relevant and irrelevant material;4 Understand technical material;5 Apply relevant knowledge effectively; and6 Construct defensible arguments and exercise critical judgment.	<p>Teaching and learning methods and strategies</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Both formal examinations and summative assessed work assess all these skills either directly or indirectly.</p>
--	---

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 as 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) 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 Work and survive in another European country.
- 9 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 8. 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.