

**LLB in Legal Studies
For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9**

UCAS code:

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Faculty:	Social Sciences Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	26/Jan/2011
Programme Director:	Dr Paul Almond
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	
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

The programme is designed to meet the needs of students who embark on the standard LLB (Law) programme, but who, at the end of Part 1 or Part 2, marginally fail to meet the programme's progression requirements. Such students will be transferred to the LLB (Legal Studies) programme at the end of Part 1 or Part 2, as appropriate, providing they meet the progression requirements of this programme.

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, and including theorising and critiquing legal concepts and the law itself.

The overarching educational 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.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Students are required to engage with progressively more technical and intellectually demanding material. Many modules require them to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding by providing, orally or in writing, an answer to a practical legal problem. This involves identifying the legal issues, the relevant facts, the principles and the authorities applicable (using directed or undirected research) to provide a solution. In some cases this requires both individual effort and teamwork (as in the modules in Legal Skills and Constitutional and Administrative Law). Such solutions must be effectively communicated and defended in language appropriate to the audience. This happens throughout the degree programme via submission of written work, tutorial and seminar participation and presentations. Reflective learning is facilitated by prompt and apt feedback to written work and presentations, and generic feedback via Blackboard to written work and Part 1 and 2 examinations. Students are required to initiate a Personal Development Portfolio in Part 1 and, at meetings with personal tutors throughout their programme, they are encouraged to reflect upon their transferrable skills, identify deficiencies and take timely and constructive steps to improve their profile.

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.

Career Management Skills

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

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
LW1CON	Contract	20	4
LW1CRI	Criminal Law	20	4
LW1GPL	General Principles of Law	20	4
LW1LS	Legal Skills	20	4
LW1TOR	Tort	20	4

The compulsory 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 4. Students must take either LW1RWS Research and Writing Skills (20 credits), or modules totalling 20 credits from a range of modules offered at Part 1 by other Schools and Departments of the University.

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
LW2CAL	Constitutional and Administrative Law	30	5
LW2LAN	Land Law	30	5
LW2EQT	Equity and Trusts	30	5
LW2WC2	Writing Credit L2	10	5

These modules are open to students registered for Part 2 of the LLB (Law) and the LL (Legal Studies) degrees. 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 Level 5. In addition students must take either a 20 credit Law option, or modules totalling 20 credits from a range of modules offered at Level 4 or 5 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) and LLB (Legal Studies) degree programmes. 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 Level 6.

The following modules are open to students registered for Part 3 of the LLB (Law) and LLB (Legal Studies) degrees. The foundation Part 3 module and all optional modules offered by the School of Law are at Level 6. Students must select one foundation module. (Only one of the foundation modules may be taken.)

LW3WC3	Writing Credit L3	20	6
LW3PRO	Pro Bono Writing Credit	20	6
LW3WCM	Writing Credit in Malaysian Law and Legal System	20	6
LW3ILM	International Law Mooting	20	6
LW3DUG	Dissertation	40	6

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

Optional modules

If the foundation module is 20 credits, options amounting to 100 credits

If the foundation module is 40 credits, options amounting to 80 credits.

The list of options available at Part 3 will vary from year to year. 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 Level 6 and are 20 credits.

Modules offered generally include:

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

A student may opt to take modules comprising 20 credits from the range of modules offered at Level 5 or 6 by other Schools and Departments of the University, or a module in a language new to them offered at Level 4 by the Institution-Wide Language Programme (IWLP) where the entry requirements for that chosen module are met. 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 (Foundations of EU Law).

Progression requirements

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

- obtain a Pass in Legal Skills AND
- achieve an overall average of 40% across all credits for which a numerical mark is awarded, AND
- pass all Law modules with at least 40%, EXCEPT THAT
- no more than 20 credits of Law modules may be failed with a mark of at least 30%.

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

- achieve an overall average of 40% in all credits taken AND
- pass all Law modules with at least 40%, EXCEPT THAT
- EITHER no more than 30 credits of Law modules may be failed with a mark of at least 35%
- OR no more than 20 credits of Law modules may be failed with a mark of at least 30%.

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

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

Teaching methods vary from module to module and include lectures, tutorials, tutor- and student-led seminars, supervised independent research and on-line learning opportunities. Assessment also varies according to the desired learning outcomes and includes a combination of seen and unseen examinations, written coursework, longer research projects, and individual and group presentations. Formative assessments in core modules offer students an opportunity to practise and receive feedback on the skills required for the summative assessments.

Admission requirements

No students will be recruited directly to this programme. Students will be transferred from the LLB (Law) at the end of Part 1 or Part 2.

Admissions Tutor:

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 a Careers Advisor and the School has a Director of Teaching & Learning, and a Senior Tutor and a Student Support Advisor to provide student support. In addition, all students receive a detailed Handbook to help them study law successfully.

Career prospects

For those students who hope for a legal career, and who have marginally failed only one core law module, an application can normally be made to the solicitor's or barrister's regulating body for condonation of the marginal fail, in so far as professional regulations allow. The University will, however, also usually provide one further opportunity for a student to pass any outstanding core modules(s) at the first available sitting after graduation, where professional regulations would recognise such a pass. A pass at this third attempt will enable the student to attach qualifying status to his or her degree but will not alter the calculations which determine the level of his or her LLB award.

Alternatively, a law degree develops skills which are in great demand outside the legal field. Those interested in alternative professions may be well fitted to pursue training and /or careers in, for example, accountancy, banking, computing, business, management, school-teaching or journalism.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

None

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

Teaching/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

5. Appropriate contextual background to understand the substantive law.

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 a variety of assessment methods. There are end of year formal examinations in all compulsory modules except Legal Skills, where there is assessment throughout the module and in Writing Credit 2 which is assessed by coursework. In Criminal Law there is a summatively assessed essay as well as the examination. In addition to the examination, in Constitutional and Administrative Law, there is an assessed group presentation and in General Principles of Law there is an online quiz. 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 problems and issues
3. Discriminate between relevant and irrelevant material
4. Understand technical material
5. Apply relevant knowledge effectively
6. Construct defensible arguments and exercise critical judgment.

Teaching/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
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/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 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:*

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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.

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). Personal tutorial 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 process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.