

LLM/Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate Advanced Legal Studies For students entering in 2009

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Faculty:	Social Sciences
Programme length:	12 months
Date of specification:	April 2008
Programme Director:	Director of Taught Postgraduate Studies (L McNamara)
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

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 at an advanced level. It seeks also to develop 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, comprising a taught element (120 credits) and a dissertation (60 credits).

Within the taught element there is one core module in Research Methods (30 credits). The remaining 90 credits of the taught element are comprised of optional modules. At least 60 credits of these 90 must be taken from the listed Law School Level 7 modules. The other 30 credits may be taken from any of:

- listed Law School Level 7 modules, or
- listed Law School Level 6 modules with permission of the Director of PGT Studies in Law, or
- listed modules offered by other Schools or Departments, or
- unlisted modules offered by any School or Department in the University, with permission from Director of PGT studies in Law. Permission to take unlisted modules will only be granted in exceptional circumstances; for example, where a student has work experience in a field then permission may be granted to take a module relevant to that field. Note that, as with all modules, any pre-requisites or co-requisites will also need to be satisfied.

All module selections are subject to timetabling requirements.

Of the 120 taught credits, students must be enrolled in a minimum of 45 credits in each of the Autumn and Spring terms. (For this purpose a 30 credit module taught across two terms will count as 15 credits in each term.)

Compulsory modules

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
LWMTDI	Dissertation	60	7
LWMTRM	Research Methods	30	7

Optional Masters-level modules from the Law School (subject to availability in any given year): at least 60 credits from this group must be taken.

LWMTEE	EU Environmental Law	10	7
LWMTL	EU Labour and Equality Law	20	7
LWMTSM	The Single Market: Trade and Commerce in an Integrated Europe	30	7
LWMTEF	European Legal Frameworks: Constitutionalism, Democracy and Citizenship	20	7
LWMTDS	International Dispute Settlement	20	7
LWMTIL	International Law in Theory and Practice	20	7
LWMTHR	International Human Rights Law	30	7
LMWTCL	Contemporary Issues in International Law	10	7
LWMTLT	International Law and Terrorism	20	7
LWMTIC	Prosecuting International Crimes: Contemporary Issues and Problems	10	7
LWMTIP	Intellectual Property	30	7
LWMTIE	International and European Aspects of Intellectual Property	10	7
LWMTWL	War Law	20	7
LWMRLK	Legal Knowledge and Legal Writing *	10	7

* enrolment in this module requires permission of Director of PGT in Law

Optional Honours-level modules from Law School (subject to availability in any given year): may only be taken with permission of the Director PGT in Law.

LW3ICR	International Children's Rights: Law and Politics	20	6
LW3EMP	Employment Law	20	6
LW3CO	Company Law	20	6
LW3CJ	Criminal Justice	20	6
LW3CRY	Criminology	20	6
LW3DL	Discrimination Law	20	6
LW3FAM	Family Law	20	6
LW3HEL	History of English Law	20	6
LW3JUR	Jurisprudence	20	6
LW3LEA	Commercial Leases	20	6
LW3MED	Medical Law	20	6
LW3REV	Revenue Law	20	6

Optional modules from ICMAC [†] (subject to availability in any given year)

ICM234	Regulation of Markets and Traders	20	7
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Optional modules from GIPIS [‡] (subject to availability in any given year)

PIM11	International Relations of the Mediterranean	30	7
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PIM15	Political Integration in Europe	30	7
PIM21	Contemporary Diplomacy	30	7
PIM19	Domestic and Foreign Policies of the Middle East	30	7
PIM27	Politics of the Monetary Union	30	7
PIM08	International Politics of the Asia Pacific	30	7

[†] *ICMAC: International Capital Markets Association Centre*

[‡] *GIPIS: Graduate Institute in Politics and International Studies*

Lists of modules available in any given year and updates to the above lists can be found through the Postgraduate pages on Law School's web site: www.reading.ac.uk/law.

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 optional modules totalling no less than 60 credits and no more than 90 credits. In the second year of study, a student will be required to complete the core module LWMTRM Research Methods, and any remaining optional modules, and the LWMTDI Dissertation module. The programme may not be completed over more than two years.

Progression requirements

■ 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. 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, will be assessed by one of or a combination of: a timed, unseen examination; a timed, seen examination; assessed written work; other forms of assessment (such as participation in class or an oral class presentation). Details of the methods of assessment in individual modules are given in the Module Description Forms.

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 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 for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 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 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.

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:

Dr Lawrence McNamara
School of Law
Foxhill House
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Earley
Reading RG6 7BA
Tel: 0118 378 5413
Fax: 0118 378 4543
E-mail l.mcnamara@reading.ac.uk

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 Centre. The Student Services Centre 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 Diary (given to students at enrolment) or on 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 Taught Postgraduate Studies (Dr Lawrence McNamara), a student support officer (Mrs Jane Mills) and a postgraduate programmes administrator (Mrs Carolyn Davidson) to provide support and advice to postgraduate students. In addition, all students receive a detailed Handbook to help them study law successfully.

Career 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 European and international governmental and non-governmental organisations, academia (with further postgraduate study), the media (journalism and broadcasting), the civil service and other branches of public service.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

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 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. As well as specific knowledge of public and private law, 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

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A range of research methodologies sufficient to formulate appropriate and relevant research questions and conduct independent research in law;2. A select range of options to broaden understanding of the operation of law at an advanced level;3. Appropriate contextual background to understand the substantive law.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>The basic knowledge in all modules is provided by seminars, although some modules may 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).</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>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.</p>
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Skills and other attributes

<p>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Think logically;2. Analyse and identify 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/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 seminars.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Both formal examinations and summative assessed work assess all these skills either directly or indirectly.</p>
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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 as part of a team;
3. Construct and present (orally and in writing) defensible arguments and critical judgment.

Teaching/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/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 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.