

**LLM in Oil and Gas Law (full-time distance-learning)  
For students entering in 2014/5**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	12 months
Date of specification:	08/Sep/2014
Programme Director:	Dr Stavroula Karapapa
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Law (Postgraduate)
Accreditation:	None

**Summary of programme aims**

The primary objectives of the programme are to

1. train a critical pool of professionals so as to develop their knowledge of the key issues in the emerging oil and gas industry;
2. increase the analytical and research skills of students in terms of their ability to collect and analyse information relating to legal, economic and environmental problems related to the oil and gas industry;
3. expose students to a multidisciplinary learning environment.
4. help students develop an array of both analytical and critical skills, through independent study and working with others.
5. provide students with the knowledge and skills for professional life and further academic study.

**Transferable skills**

Students are encouraged to act independently in planning tasks and use feedback to reflect on their performance and 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 persuasive and unpersuasive arguments. Students will be able to research a variety of online 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 effective time management.

**Programme content**

The LLM programme consists of 180 credits. Within the programme there is a taught element (140 credits) and a Project (40 credits).

The project must be written on a topic that has a meaningful relationship to issues of Oil and Gas law.

*Content of the Distance Learning LLM Oil and Gas Law:*

The Distance Learning LLM Oil and Gas Law will be completed in Distance Learning (DL) mode. Students will spend the Autumn and Spring terms studying both compulsory and optional taught modules. There are 3 compulsory taught modules totalling 50 credits: Oil and Gas Contract Law (LWMTGCD), Legal Issues in Oil and Gas (LWMTOGD) and Project Skills (LWMTPSD). Students will also choose a further 90 credits from the optional modules list below. Students will write their Project (LWMTPR, 40 credits) off-campus between May-September.

Students can take optional modules of the LLM Oil and Gas Law that is delivered on campus if they wish.

Permission to take unlisted distance learning 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.

Code	Title	Credits	Level
LWMTPR	Project	40	
LWMTPSD	Project Skills	10	
LWMTGCD	Oil and Gas Contract Law	20	
LWMTOGD	Legal Issues in Oil and Gas	20	

**School of Law Oil and Gas Law Distance Learning Optional Modules**

LWMTMAD	Legal Aspects of Mergers, Acquisitions and Takeovers (20)
LWMTBLD	International Banking Law (20)
LWMTCAD	International Commercial Arbitration (10)
LWMTTAD	Investment Treaty Arbitration (10)
LWMTDDD	International Finance and Investment Law: Doing the Deals (20)
LWMTEND	Emerging Markets and International Commercial and Economic Law (20)
LWMTGLD	International Corporate Governance and the Law (20)
LWMTPPD	International Project Finance, PPP and the Law (20)
LWMTLED	International Economic Law (10)
LWMTFRD	Legal Aspects of International Financial Regulation (20)
LWMTCGD	Comparative Oil and Gas Policy (10)
LWMTEND	EU Energy Law and Regulation (20)
LWMTIFD	Legal Aspects of International Finance (20)

The teaching and learning methods for each module will, for the most part, consist of what is described in the 'Brief description of teaching and learning methods' rubric.

#### **Part-time or modular arrangements**

The Distance Learning LLM Oil and Gas Law programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete the core modules LWMTGCD Oil and Gas Contract Law, and LWMTOGD Legal Issues in Oil and Gas and further optional modules totalling not less than 20 credits and not more than 50 credits. In the second year of study a student will normally be required to complete the core module LWMTPSD Project Skills, any remaining optional modules, and the LWMTPR Project module. The programme may not be completed over more than two years.

#### **Progression requirements**

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 if he or she gains an average mark of 50 or more in modules worth 60 credits and has no mark below 40.

#### **Summary of Teaching and Assessment**

Students will take all their modules online during the Autumn and Spring terms. Teaching methods may vary from module to module, but online delivery of these modules will involve a mix of recorded lectures, online tutorials and asynchronous guided study online. In the context of these modules, DL students will access relevant sources using online databases and/or may be required to purchase textbooks, and/or will be able to access scanned individual book chapters on BB. They will submit their coursework electronically.

All modules other than the Project will be assessed by one or a combination of: assessed written work; a presentation; and other forms of assessment.

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

Further information on the classification conventions, including borderline criteria, are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/exams/PGclassification-post-2008.pdf>.

#### For Masters Degree

To qualify for Distinction, students must gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 60 or more for the project. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits and students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Merit, students must gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 50 or more for the project. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits and students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Passed, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 50 or more for the project. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits and students must not have any mark below 40.

For PG Diploma

To qualify for Distinction, students must gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits and students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Merit, students must gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits and students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Passed, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits and students must not have any mark below 40.

For PG Certificate

To qualify for a Postgraduate Certificate, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits and must not have any mark below 40.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a degree in law or a degree in economics or a degree in environmental science with a first or upper second class honours (or an equivalent classification if they graduated overseas). All applicants are considered on their individual merits, and the School may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

**Admissions Tutor:** Professor Ioannis Kokkoris, E-mail: [i.kokkoris@reading.ac.uk](mailto:i.kokkoris@reading.ac.uk)

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-session English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and 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 advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. 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 and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see [www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

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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, individual programme directors for each taught postgraduate programme, a Senior Tutor for students on taught postgraduate programmes, a student support officer and a

postgraduate administrative officer 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, as the skills gained by undertaking a postgraduate law degree are in great demand from both legal and non-legal employers. While not disqualifying students from any career open to non-specialist graduates, a postgraduate law degree will open many doors in more specialised areas of employment such as legal practice in fields related to the oil and gas industry, European, intergovernmental 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.

### **Programme Outcomes**

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

##### **A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

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;
6. Construct defensible arguments and exercise critical judgment.

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Logic, analytical and critical skills and the ability to apply relevant knowledge are inherent in the study of law and these skills are encouraged and developed in online tutorials.

##### *Assessment*

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

#### **Skills and other attributes**

##### **B. Intellectual skills - able to:**

1. Key issues in oil and gas industry and how they interrelate;
2. A range of research methodologies sufficient to formulate appropriate and relevant research questions and conduct independent research in law;
3. A select range of options to broaden understanding of the operation of law at an advanced level;
4. Appropriate contextual background to understand the substantive law.

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

The basic knowledge in all modules is provided through recorded lectures and/or online tutorials and/or asynchronous guided study. These 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.

##### *Assessment*

Modules adopt a variety of assessment methods. All modules include either or both of summative assessed work and an unseen, timed exam.

##### **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 defensible arguments and

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

All the practical skills are present in each module and are developed through tutorials. 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

critical judgment.

modules seek to develop powers of critical analysis and judgment.

*Assessment*

The written element of 3 is directly assessed through summative assessed work and/or formal examinations. Examinations indirectly assess 1 and 2, while summative assessed work does so directly. The dissertation requires elements of 1, 2 and 3..

**D. Transferable skills - able to:**

1. Work independently and hard;
2. Use different types of information sources;
3. Communicate technical material effectively;
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 online discussions . 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.

*Assessment*

Both formal examinations and summative assessed work assess all these skills other than 5 and 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 process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**