

**LLB in Legal Studies  
For students entering Part 1 in 2014/5**

**UCAS code:**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	23/Sep/2014
Programme Director:	Dr David Wilde
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 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 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 module in Legal Skills. 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 transferable 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 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
LW1PL1	Public Law 1	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>
LW2PL2	Public Law 2	20	5
LW2LND	Land Law	20	5
LW2ETR	Equity and Trusts	20	5
LW2PLP	Property Law Research Project	20	5
LW2EUL	EU Law	20	5

#### *Optional modules:*

LW2LWC	Legal Writing Credit	20	5
LW2RPP	Research Placement Project	20	5

These modules are open to students registered for Part 2 of the LLB (Law) and the LLB (Legal Studies) degrees. 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 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 4,5 or 6 by other Schools and Departments of the University. The School provides information on the options open to Part 2 students during Part 1.

### **Part 3 (three terms)**

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.)

LW3RWC	Research Writing Credit	20	6
LW3WPP	Writing Credit Pro Bono and Professional Practice	20	6
LW3ILM	International Law Mooting	20	6
LW3DUG	Dissertation	40	6

In addition students registered for Part 3 of the LLB (Law) and the LLB (Legal Studies) degrees 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
- 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.

### **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
- achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

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

### **Assessment and classification**

The University's honours classification scheme is:

Mark	interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx>.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

### **Three-year programmes**

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

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 student 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 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)

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 learning**

#### **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**

As part of the degree programme students have the opportunity to study abroad at an institution with which the University has a valid agreement.

Students have many opportunities for placements through co-curricular activities such as CAB training and Streetlaw. The Writing Credit Pro Bono and Professional Practice module provides a formal setting for students who choose to undertake voluntary work in an approved pro bono organisation or professional setting. It allows students to develop their practical legal skills. It also allows the Law School to evaluate the contribution the student has made to the organisation concerned.

#### **Placement opportunities**

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### **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 and principal features of the English law and legal system, including its institutions and procedures.
2. The principles, values, and operation of a range of topics and areas of law extending beyond the core, including areas of European and International law.
3. Selected areas of law in depth .
4. How the law fits together and operates, and the contextual background to the law, appropriate to a subject specialist within the discipline.

##### **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 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 Property Law Research project (Part 2) which are assessed by coursework. Many other modules across the degree feature mixed assessment regimes, featuring examinations, coursework, and other assessment methods (such as online quizzes, presentations and so on) in various combinations and proportions. 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. create innovative and original solutions to problems by approaching materials or using sources in different ways
2. analyse and evaluate issues and materials in terms of their doctrinal and policy importance, and relevance to other policy perspectives which have been taught
3. analyse and evaluate issues and materials in terms of their theoretical basis or conceptual coherence
4. produce clear doctrinal synthesis and summary of policy issues
5. construct defensible arguments and exercise effective 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. apply relevant knowledge accurately and effectively to situations and issues that reflect doctrinal debates and uncertainties
2. engage with practical problems of legal application, and provide solutions that demonstrate a strong familiarity with doctrinal and conceptual legal issues
3. engage with theoretical and substantive legal debates, and provide contributions to these debates that demonstrate a strong familiarity with doctrinal and conceptual legal issues
4. understand technical materials, including primary legal sources and academic publications, and use relevant materials as appropriate to the topic being studied

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

1. utilise a range of technological tools for study and personal support purposes, including word processing, spreadsheets, library and other subject information retrieval systems, internet resources, and communication tools
2. act independently in planning and managing tasks with limited guidance, managing their own workload, and in identifying and discovering resources and materials
3. express complex ideas fluently and effectively in written form, using legal terminology correctly, and produce written materials that are appropriate for the relevant audience, clearly written, and grammatically correct
4. communicate arguments and critical judgements effectively in oral form, and engage in academic debate in a professional manner
5. work effectively in a group as a participant who contributes to the success of the group's task
6. be reflective in reviewing and assessing their own learning, and in seeking and using feedback
7. engage in career development and employability activities

### **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*

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

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

Law is a subject of considerable complexity; much of this complexity can only be resolved, and outcomes reached, through the pursuit of independent thought and research, and the use of technological tools and research resources. The degree aims to inculcate independence of thought and work, technological competence, reflectiveness, careers consciousness, and confident and effective communication skills, at every level and within every module. A student must be able to defend his or her conclusions and present findings orally and in appropriate language to an audience, and have the ability to discuss complex and sometimes controversial issues in a competent and professional manner. 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. Engagement in career planning/CPD is encouraged via the same medium as well as through the pervasive career/placement based modules taught across the degree.

**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.**