

**LLM Global Crisis, Conflict and Disaster Management (full-time)**  
**For students entering in 2016/7**

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:	1 years
Date of specification:	24/Nov/2016
Programme Director:	
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Law (Postgraduate)
Accreditation:	None

**Summary of programme aims**

The primary objectives of the programme are:

1. To provide a structured postgraduate law degree which examines global crisis, complex emergencies, conflict and disaster ('man-made' and 'natural') management issues through the lenses of global law (ie national, regional and international law) and policy.
2. To be equally accessible to law and non-law graduates regardless of any prior background or experience in global law issues.
3. To equip students with the necessary skills and understanding to draw more effectively on the global law and policy framework in their future work, including practice, law and policy-making within the fields of crisis, conflict, and/or disaster management.
4. Recognising the inherently multidisciplinary nature of crises, complex emergencies, conflicts and disasters, to embed multidisciplinary within the programme thereby better equipping students to engage more effectively outside of their own core disciplinary areas.
5. To examine the broader theoretical and conceptual global context in which practical responses to crises, complex emergencies, conflicts and disasters occur, such as: the interrelationship between different legal and non-legal regimes; interrelationship between law and policies, standards, guidelines; identifying key synergies, strengths, weaknesses, and gaps.
6. To explore solutions to identified weaknesses, gaps and challenges - whether law, policy, and/or practice based; through independent and group enquiry, discussions, and research.
7. To provide a platform for students to share and draw upon each other's relevant experiences, enriching the student experience through exposing students to diverse perspectives.
8. To strengthen students' future employability, including for management roles, through the development of their global contextual understanding and perspectives.
9. To strengthen students' future employability, including for management roles, through the further development of critical core academic and professional skills including independent research, innovative and creative thinking, analysis, oral and written communication, team work, and use of information technological tools.

**Transferable skills**

Students will develop and further consolidate a number of transferable skills. Examining issues through legal lenses, students will develop the ability to distinguish more effectively between persuasive and unpersuasive arguments. Similarly, they will refine their ability to resolve complex problems, as well as to frame credible, coherent, and persuasive arguments from a range of perspectives. Students will further learn how to identify and draw upon credible, reliable research sources which form an essential aspect of persuasive argument. Through feedback given on formative and assessed work, students will grow as independent, self-critical, and confident commentators on law, policy, and practice matters. Students will also develop as independent, critical, innovative, and creative thinkers, with the ability to clearly express their ideas orally and in written form, where appropriate making effective use of supporting information technology. They will acquire sound time management skills, and be able to work effectively and collaboratively within a team.

**Programme content**

To reflect the particular needs of students likely to undertake this programme, such as lengthy operational deployments to conflict zones or in response to disasters, additional flexibility is offered through the three entry points of LLM, PGDiploma, and PGCertificate.

**LLM**

The LLM programme consists of 180 credits. In order to best meet the specific needs of individual students undertaking the programme, recognising especially that many are likely to already have relevant work and/or research experience, students will have the choice of completing a dissertation-like component either by taking the research project (LWMPRO) or by taking the professional placement (LWMPLA) module.

The programme may be completed in one of two ways:

- (1) 140 credits of taught modules are taken (of which a minimum of 100 credits must be law modules) plus LWMPRO Professional Project (40 credits); or
- (2) 140 credits of taught modules are taken (of which a minimum of 100 credits must be law modules) plus LWMPLA Professional Placement (40 credits).

Within the taught element there are two compulsory core modules for all students: LWMCPA Foundational Concepts, Principles, and Actors (20 credits), and LWMHRL Human Rights Law, Policy, and Practice (20 credits). In addition, for law and non-law graduates with no previous academic or professional experience in public international law, a third compulsory core module is LWMTPU Public International Law (10 credits). Though LWMTLM Research Methods (10 credits) is not compulsory, students without backgrounds in research methodology are strongly advised to take it since most modules include an assessment that is research based.

Students must take all the remaining 100 taught module credits (90 credits in the case of students taking LWMTPU) from the lists of optional law and non-law modules below. A maximum of 40 credits of non-law modules is permitted. 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 any module pre-requisites or co-requisites will also need to be satisfied. Students must normally complete 100 credits (90 credits in the case of students taking LWMTPU) of optional modules during the Autumn and Spring terms unless a selected taught module runs during the summer term or there are special circumstances. Completion of LWMPRO Research Project or LWMPLA Professional Placement (40 credits) will normally be during the summer period.

While no minimum or maximum number of credits is specified, students are strongly advised not to take more than a total of 70 credits (whether core or optional modules) in any one term. (For this purpose, when a module is taught across two terms, half of its credits will be allocated to the first term and half to the second). Work for postgraduate teaching programmes, however, is not bounded by university terms. Reading for forthcoming modules and preparation of assignments is included within this computation and will to some extent take place outside term-time.

### **PGDiploma**

The Diploma consists of 120 credits of taught modules. The LWMPRO Research Project and LWMPLA Professional Placement modules are not offered as optional modules for the Diploma. However, in the event of a student taking either of these modules as part of the LLM but failing to achieve the required passes in the taught modules, successful completion of LWMPRO or LWMPLA will count towards the award of a Diploma if all other requirements have been met.

Of the 120 credits, students must normally complete the core modules: LWMCPA Foundational Concepts, Principles, and Actors (20 credits), and LWMHRL Human Rights Law, Policy, and Practice (20 credits). In addition, for law and non-law graduates with no previous academic or professional experience in public international law, a third core module is LWMTPU Public International Law (10 credits). Though LWMTLM Research Methods (10 credits) is not compulsory, students without backgrounds in research methodology are strongly advised to take it since most modules include an assessment that is research based.

For the Diploma, a minimum of 100 credits must be law modules; a maximum of 20 credits of non-law modules is permitted.

Students must take all the remaining 80 credits (70 credits in the case of students taking LWMTPU) from the list of optional modules below. Permission to take unlisted or non-law 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.

Of the 80 credits (70 credits for students taking LWMTPU), students must normally complete these during the Autumn and Spring terms unless a selected taught module runs during the summer term or there are special

circumstances. While no minimum or maximum number of credits is specified, students are strongly advised not to take more than a total of 70 credits (whether core or optional modules) in any one term. (For this purpose, when a module is taught across two terms, half of its credits will be allocated to the first term and half to the second). Work for postgraduate teaching programmes, however, is not bounded by university terms. Reading for forthcoming modules and preparation of assignments is included within this computation and will to some extent take place outside term-time.

### **PGCertificate**

The Certificate consists of 60 credits of taught law modules only. Of the 60 credits, students must normally complete the core modules: LWMCPA Foundational Concepts, Principles, and Actors (20 credits), and LWMHRL Human Rights Law, Policy and Practice (20 credits). In addition, for law and non-law graduates with no previous academic or professional experience in public international law, a third core module is LWMTPU Public International Law (10 credits). Though LWMTLM Research Methods is not compulsory, students without backgrounds in research methodology are strongly advised to take it since most modules include an assessment that is research based.

Students must take the remaining 20 credits (10 credits in the case of students taking LWMTPU) from the list of optional law modules only below. Permission to take unlisted or non-law 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.

Note for all qualifications: if students choose modules that are assessed by examination (rather than entirely by coursework), examination will normally take place around late April to the end of May.

### **Continuous professional development route**

It is possible for students to take any core or optional taught law module on a standalone basis, resulting in the issuing of a Certificate of Credit which does not constitute a formal degree award.

Should students wish to be awarded a formal qualification, individual modules already taken may be transferred to the LLM, PGDiploma, or PGCertificate qualification within thirty six months of their completion. For each of these qualifications, the same core and optional module requirements must be met.

### **Transfer between Qualifications**

To reflect the particular needs of students likely to undertake this programme, recognising that it may not always be possible to commit initially to a full LLM qualification, it is possible for students to transfer between qualifications; from PGCertificate to PGDiploma or LLM, and from PGDiploma to LLM; in accordance with normal University of Reading regulations and processes. A maximum period for 36 months between the end of registration date of one qualification and the date of enrolment onto another qualification is permitted.

### **Modules**

All module options are subject to availability in any given year and to timetabling constraints. The core and optional modules listed here are illustrative of the types of modules that will be offered, but are subject to change.

### **LLM Global Crisis, Conflict and Disaster Management core modules all modules from this group must be taken**

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
LWMCPA	Foundational Concepts, Principles, and Actors	20
LWMHRL	Human Rights Law, Policy, and Practice	20

*Law and non-law graduates with no previous academic or professional experience in public international law are also required to take*

LWMTPU	Public International Law	10
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*Additionally, all students are required to take one of the following research modules:*

<i>Either</i>		
LWMPRO	Research Project	40
<i>Or</i>		

**Optional law modules (subject to availability and possible change in any given year) - at least 60 credits (50 credits for those students taking LWMTPU) from this group must be taken**

LWMDMT	Disaster Management	20
LWMIRL	International Refugee Law	20
LWMWEA	Technologies and Weaponry	10
LWMTLM	Research Methods	10
LWMTUM	The Use of Military Force	20
LWMTAC	Law of Armed Conflict (International Humanitarian Law)	20
LWMTDS	International Dispute Settlement	20
LWMTPI	Israel/Palestine: International Law and Human Rights Issues	10
LWMEGA	The European Union as a Global Actor	20

**Optional non-law modules, subject to any timetabling constraints, from the School of Politics, Economics and International Relations, School of Humanities, School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science, and School of Meteorology (subject to the availability in any given year); a maximum of 40 credits may be taken from this group**

PIM66	Contemporary Diplomacy	20
PIM73	Conflict in the Middle East	20
PIM80	Building Peace after Civil War	20
IDM077/8	Food Security and Development	10/20
IDM012	Gender and Development	10
GVMPFF	Preparing for Floods	10
PIM81	Themes and Issues in Contemporary International Relations	20
APMA90	Climate Change and Food Systems	10
IDM095	Theories and Practices of Development	20

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](http://www.reading.ac.uk/law).

**Part-time or modular arrangements**

**LLM**

The LLM programme can be taken part-time over thirty six months.

In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete the following:

- (1) At least one of the core taught modules which must include LWMCPA Foundational Concepts, Principles, and Actors (20 credits), and which may include LWMHRL Human Rights Law, Policy, and Practice (20 credits). Additionally, LWMTPU Public International Law (10 credits) if a law or non-law graduate with no previous academic or professional experience in public international law.
- (2) Optional taught law and/or non-law taught modules.
- (3) It is possible to commence LWMPRO Research Project or LWMPLA Professional Placement. Students are strongly advised, however, to undertake this from their second year of study onwards once they have completed a number of taught modules to ensure that they have the necessary foundational knowledge and research skills to successfully undertake LWMPRO or LWMPLA.

In the second year of study a student will normally be required to complete the following:

- (1) Any outstanding taught core module(s).
- (2) Optional law and/or non-law taught modules (to a total of 140 credits if completing the programme within twenty four months).
- (3) LWMPRO Research Project or LWMPLA Professional Placement (if completing the programme within twenty four months).

Students continuing into the third year of study will normally be required to complete any outstanding core and optional law and/or non-law modules to complete the required total of 180 credits.

While no minimum or maximum number of credits is specified per term or per academic year in order to best accommodate students' individual circumstances and preferences, students are strongly advised not to take more than a total of 90 credits (whether core or optional modules) in any one year. (For this purpose, the allocation of credits for LWMPRO Research Project or LWMPLA Professional Placement can be spread over two academic years).

Though LWMTLM Research Methods is not compulsory, students without backgrounds in research methodology are strongly advised to take it since most modules include an assessment that is research based.

### **PGDiploma**

The Diploma can be taken part-time over twenty four months.

In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete the following:

- (1) At least one of the core taught modules which must include LWMCPA Foundational Concepts, Principles, and Actors (20 credits), and which may include LWMHRL Human Rights Law, Policy, and Practice (20 credits). Additionally, LWMTPU Public International Law (10 credits) if a law or non-law graduate with no previous academic or professional experience in public international law.  
and
- (2) Optional law modules.

In the second year of study a student will normally be required to complete any outstanding core taught module(s), and to complete further remaining optional taught law modules to complete the overall requirement of 120 credits.

Though LWMTLM Research Methods is not compulsory, students without backgrounds in research methodology are strongly advised to take it since most modules include an assessment that is research based.

### **PGCertificate**

The Certificate can be taken part-time over twenty four months.

In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete the following:

- (1) At least one of the core taught modules which must include LWMCPA Foundational Concepts, Principles, and Actors (20 credits), and which may include LWMHRL Human Rights Law, Policy, and Practice (20 credits). Additionally, LWMTPU Public International Law (10 credits) if a law or non-law graduate with no previous academic or professional experience in public international law.
- (2) Optional taught law modules may also be taken.

In the second year of study a student will normally be required to complete any outstanding core and optional taught law module(s) to complete the overall requirement of 60 credits.

Though LWMTLM Research Methods is not compulsory, students without backgrounds in research methodology are strongly advised to take it since most modules include an assessment that is research based.

Note for all qualifications: if students choose modules that are assessed by examination (rather than entirely by coursework), examination will normally take place around late April to the end of May.

### **Progression requirements**

#### **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. Lectures can also be provided online.

All modules other than the Project will be assessed by one or a combination of: a timed, unseen examination; a timed, seen examination; assessed written work; and other forms of assessment (such as participation in class or an oral class presentation).

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 and weighted averages, is 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 law or non-law degree 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:** Dr Katja Samuel

#### **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-sessional 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 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 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 students 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 is likely to open alternative doors in more specialised areas of employment. More specifically, since the skills and knowledge acquired during this unique LLM programme will be of global relevance and applicability it is expected that graduates of the programme will be highly sought after by a broad range of national, regional and international stakeholders engaged in responding to and managing diverse crises, conflicts and disasters, whether at the governmental, intergovernmental, private/corporate, or non-governmental level. The programme is expected to appeal especially to early to mid-career professionals within these field, including those seeking management positions. It is equally suitable for recent graduates, those taking a career break, or career changers considering future employment within the fields of crisis, conflict, and/or disaster management, wishing to acquire more specialist as well as broader multidisciplinary contextual knowledge and understanding.

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

The programme does not involve study abroad. There is the opportunity, as an optional module (LWMPLA), to undertake a placement with an entity engaged in crisis, conflict, and/or disaster issues whether in the UK or overseas.

### **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. Key issues in global law and crisis, complex emergency, conflict, and disaster management;
2. A range of research methodologies sufficient to formulate appropriate and relevant research questions and conduct independent research in law;
3. How to critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in law;
4. How to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses;
5. A select range of options to broaden understanding of the operation of law at an advanced level;
6. An appropriate contextual background in which to understand the substantive law.

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

The basic knowledge in all law modules is provided by seminars, although some modules (especially non-law modules) may include lectures as an alternative or additional teaching method. 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.

##### *Assessment*

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

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

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

1. Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
2. Clearly identify and logically analyse problems and issues, demonstrating practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge;
3. Demonstrate an ability to discriminate between relevant and irrelevant material;
4. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
5. Continue to advance individual knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.
6. Construct defensible arguments and exercise critical judgment.

**C. Practical skills - able to:**

1. Discover and use legal, non-legal, and/or policy and contextual materials from a variety of sources;
2. Evaluate legal, non-legal, and/or policy and contextual material both individually and as part of a team;
3. Construct and present (orally and in writing) defensible arguments and critical judgment.

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

1. Work independently and diligently.
2. Demonstrate initiative and personal responsibility;
3. Use different types of information sources;
4. Communicate technical material effectively both orally and in writing, both to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
5. Construct defensible arguments and exercise critical judgment;
6. Reflect critically on one's own learning;
7. Consider and manage continuing professional

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Logic, analytical and critical skills together with an ability to apply relevant knowledge are inherent in the study of law and these skills are encouraged and developed in seminars.

*Assessment*

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

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

All the practical skills are present in each module and are developed primarily 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 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 professional project and placement options directly or indirectly assess elements of 1, 2 and 3. Some modules assess oral communication skills (formatively or summatively).

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Law is a subject of considerable complexity and technicality, requiring concerted effort by students to engage effectively with it. 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*



development.

Both formal examinations and summative assessed work assess all these skills other than 6 and 7. 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.**