

**MSc in Law and Economics (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 of Arts, Humanities and Social Science |
| Faculty:                                    | Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty    |
| Programme length:                           | 1 years  |
| Date of specification:                      | 04/Oct/2016                                    |
| Programme Director:                         |  |
| Programme Advisor:                          |  |
| Board of Studies:                           | Law (Postgraduate)                             |
| Accreditation:                              | None   |

**Summary of programme aims**

The primary objectives of the programme are to:

1. Equip students with the specialist knowledge and skills they require to succeed as professionals, scholars and leaders in fields involving the interplay between law and economics.
2. Provide a structured postgraduate law degree which examines EU law in its economic and political context.
3. Provide a flexible programme through core modules in the field of law and economics combined with a range of options currently on offer, and the independent study of a project component.
4. Expose students to a multidisciplinary learning environment.
5. Help students develop an array of both analytical and critical skills, through independent study and working with others.

**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. In addition, a 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 effective time management.

**Programme content**

The LLM/MSc programme consists of 180 credits. Within the LLM programme there are 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 law and/or economics. The project must be written specifically on issues relevant to any of the modules offered on the programme (compulsory and relevant optional modules).

To be awarded an *MSc Law and Economics*

Within the taught element students take either of the following two core modules: LWMTAI Advanced Issues in International Commercial Law (20 credits) or LWMTCF International Corporate Finance and the Law (20 credits). In addition within the taught element students take either of the following two core module options: ECM123 Regulation or ECM189 & ECM190 Microeconomics 1 and Microeconomics 2. Students also take as core: LWMTPS Project Skills (10 credits), and LWMTPR Project (40 credits).

Students take all the remaining 90 taught credits from the lists of optional modules from Law *or* Economics optional modules lists. Students must take at least 30 credits from the Law *LLM/MSc Law and Economics* optional modules list and at least 30 credits the Economics *LLM/MSc Law and Economics* optional modules list. 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.

Compulsory Modules

| <i>Code</i>           | <i>Title</i>                                    | <i>(Credits)</i> |
|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| LWMTPR                | Project   | (40)             |
| LWMTPS                | Project Skills                                  | (10)             |
| Students take either: |   |                  |
| LWMTAI                | Advanced Issues in International Commercial Law | (20)             |
| or                    |   |                  |

|                           |   |      |
|---------------------------|---|------|
| LWMTCF                    | International Corporate Finance and the Law | (20) |
| and students take either: |   |      |
| ECM123                    | Regulation                                  | (20) |
| or                        |   |      |
| ECM189                    | Microeconomics 1 Policy                     | (10) |
| And                       |   |      |
| ECM190                    | Microeconomics 2                            | (10) |

A full list of the optional modules is available from the programme director.

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

The 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 LWMTAI Advanced International Commercial Law Issues, or LWMTCF International Corporate Finance and the Law and ECM123 Regulation or ECM189 and ECM190 Microeconomics 1 and 2. They should also take 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 any remaining optional modules and the core module LWMTPS Project Skills and the LWMTPR Project 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 two 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 Postgraduate Certificate in Law and Economics 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**

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:

| <b>Mark</b>        | <b>Interpretation</b>         |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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 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 can be required to have obtained a degree in law or economic or business or finance or a related area with a first or upper second class honours (or an equivalent classification if they graduated overseas). Applicants who do not reach these requirements may be considered if they have other qualifications or appropriate work experience. All applicants are considered on their individual merits, and the School may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Stavroula Karapapa, s.karapapa@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)

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.

A course on 'Academic Writing for LLM students' that we run in collaboration with ISLI will be made available to all students taking this programme. This will help them enhance their skills in essay writing and will also offer to an extent language support for international students. International students will also receive support through our International Support tutor.

A dedicated support for International Students is also available. GOALLS : Global Outlook Activities and Learning for Legal Seagulls was started in October 2015 as an experimental/pioneer effort for providing our international students with a regular, structured and customised support to help take them an extra step ahead in making the best use of their University days. Further details are available here:

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/law/lis-goalls.pdf> , <http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/law/lis-goalls.pdf> , <http://www.reading.ac.uk/law/legalseagulls/law-is-support-new.aspx> , <http://www.reading.ac.uk/law/legalseagulls/law-is-support-new.aspx>

### **Career prospects**

The MSc programme in Law and Economics aims to assist its graduates in furthering their careers by enabling them to develop an expertise in both modern economic theory and techniques, and the structuring of modern commercial transactions. The courses are designed to provide essential tools and concepts for all students interested in the intersection between law and economics.

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 and economics degree will open many doors in more specialised areas of employment, such as policymaking, European and 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**

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 Law and Economics and how they interrelate;
2. A range of research methodologies sufficient to formulate appropriate and relevant research questions and conduct independent research in law and economics;
3. A select range of options to broaden understanding of the operation of law and economics at an advanced level;
4. Appropriate contextual background to understand the interplay between law and economics.

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

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.

##### *Assessment*

Modules adopt a variety of assessment methods. All modules utilise either summative assessed work or an end of year unseen, timed exam.

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

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

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 seminars.

##### *Assessment*

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

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

1. Discover and use legal and economic related contextual materials from a variety of sources;
2. Evaluate legal and/or economic and contextual material both individually and as part of a team;
3. Construct and present both 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/economic study is to provide an answer to a practical legal and economic related problem having identified the legal issues, selected relevant facts, and used economic and legal arguments 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 while summative assessed work does so directly. The project requires elements of 1, 2 and 3. Some modules assess oral communication (formatively or summatively).

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

1. Work independently and diligently ;
2. Use different types of information sources;
3. Communicate technical material effectively, both orally and in writing;
4. Construct defensible arguments and exercise critical judgement;
5. Reflect critically on one's own learning; and
6. Consider career development.

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

Law as well as economics are subjects 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 of these skills and oral skills are assessed in at least one module 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.**